

**METHOD AND MOBILE STATION FOR AUTOMATIC CREATION OF TALK
GROUP**

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to digital radio communication systems, in general, and to automatic creation of emergency talk group, in particular.

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Background of the Invention

Two-way wireless communication systems include a plurality of mobile stations (MSs), a limited number of wireless communication resources (or can be built without an infrastructure), and a communication resource controller.

Digital addressing used in these systems allows for partitioning of the plurality of MSs into talk groups. Mobile stations arranged in talk groups usually have a similar function or geographic location however other basis for partitioning is also possible. A mobile station initiating a talk group call to other mobile stations within its talk group such that the other members will receive the communication simultaneously. Selection of talk group programmed into the mobile station allows the user to select and operate on one of many possible talk groups at any instant in time. This functionality of talk groups is important and very useful especially in public safety applications.

Ability of simultaneous communication with plurality of other MSs is particularly important in emergency situations.

One method of controlling operation of mobile stations known in the art is to rely on a dispatcher. Verbal or text messages are broadcasted from the dispatcher to all mobile stations in the talk group. In
5 emergency situations, e.g. in case of an accident it takes time for the dispatcher to create a talk group and to assign as well as communicate the messages to the personnel closest to an incident. Such method causes some delay as usually additional exchange of information
10 is required.

Summary of the Invention

There is a need for a method of automatic creation of a talk group in a digital radio communication system
15 and for a mobile station for use in such communication system, which alleviate or overcome the disadvantages of the prior art.

According to a first aspect of the present
20 invention there is thus provided a method of automatic creation of a talk group in a digital radio communication system as claimed in claim 1.

According to a second aspect of the present
25 invention there is thus provided a mobile station for use in a digital radio communication as claimed in claim 18.

The present invention beneficially allows for
30 short-cutting the manually process of coordinating a dispatch in response to an emergency message, by immediately and automatically creating a talk group which may provide support to the unit sending the emergency message and automatically adding the closest

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emergency service unit (or units) to the dynamically created talk group.

5 **Brief description of the drawings**

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings in which:

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FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration of a communication system operating in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention,

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FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating a method of automatic creation of a talk group in a first embodiment of the present invention,

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FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating a method of automatic creation of a talk group in a second embodiment of the present invention,

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FIG. 4 is a flow chart illustrating a method of automatic creation of a talk group in a third embodiment of the present invention,

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FIG. 5 is a flow chart illustrating a method of automatic creation of a talk group in a fourth embodiment of the present invention,

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a mobile station in one embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed description of an embodiment of the invention

The term a dispatch centre herein below refers to a specialized radio communication unit, preferably equipped with additional computer operated support units, which is adapted to control at least portion of mobile stations of a communication system

The term infrastructure herein below refers to hardware and software elements that forms a communication network and allow for transmitting voice and/or data over the radio channel(s).

Referring to FIG. 1 one embodiment of a wireless communication system 100 according to the present invention is shown. The communication system comprises a plurality of mobile stations (MSs) 102 - 116, a dispatch centre 148 and an infrastructure 120, 136 - 146, which allows for communication in trunking mode as well as in direct mode. Alternatively the communication system 100 may comprise only the plurality of MSs 102 - 116 and said dispatch centre.

The invention allows for automatic creation of a talk group in a wireless communication system 100 in a situation when a user of one of said MSs 102 - 116 is in an emergency situation or is a witness of an emergency situation (e.g. a car accident).

With reference to Fig. 2 and Fig. 6 one embodiment of a method of automatic creation of a talk group according to the present invention is shown. When a user of a first mobile station 102 is in an emergency situation and presses a dedicated button on the first MS 102 an emergency message is transmitted over the air 200 on a broadcast channel. Said emergency message contains

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at least an ID of the mobile station 102, identification that this is an emergency message and current geographical localization of the transmitting MS. Said emergency message may optionally contain a short
5 indication what type of emergency service is required (e.g. police, an ambulance, a fire brigade, etc). Transmitting this additional information could require manual typing by the user or choosing from the list stored in a memory 612 of the MS 600. Other mobile
10 stations 104 - 116, after receiving said message, automatically transmit 202 their IDs and localization data also on said broadcast channel. In a next step 204, 206 those MSs which transmitted their IDs and
localization data and are located within a predefined
15 distance D1 from said first mobile station 102 are selected to a talk group.

Alternatively all MSs that replied to said emergency message are selected to said talk group.
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If there is no MS within said predefined distance or the number of MSs within said predefined distance is too small 208 said predefined distance D1 is increased
216 to D2 and other MSs located within distance D2 are
25 selected to said talk group.

In one embodiment said selection 204, 206 is performed by said first mobile station, which is equipped with a microprocessor 610 and a memory 612.
30 Said IDs and localization data received in response to said emergency message are stored in said memory 612 and said microprocessor 610 is adapted to calculate the distances between said first mobile station and any one of said other mobile stations which have responded to
35 said emergency message and then create a talk group

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comprising other mobile stations based on said calculated distances. This embodiment is applicable to communication systems without an infrastructure or to a situation when infrastructure is not used.

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Alternatively for a communication system with an infrastructure said step of selecting MSs to said talk group is performed by said infrastructure 120, 136 - 146.

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When said talk group is created or at the time of selecting said MSs to said talk group an emergency service unit 118 is localized 210 and selected 212 to said talk group. The emergency service unit 118 closest to said first mobile station is selected even if its distance is bigger than the predefined distance D1. If the emergency situation requires it is possible that more than one emergency service unit is selected to said talk group.

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For communication systems with said infrastructure 120, 136 - 146 a dispatch centre 148 transmits driving directions to said emergency service unit (or units) 118.

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Referring to Fig. 3 and Fig. 6 a second embodiment of a method of automatic creation of a talk group according to the present invention is shown. When a user of a first mobile station 102 is in an emergency situation and presses a dedicated button on the first MS 102 an emergency message is transmitted over the air 200. Other mobile stations 104 - 116, after receiving said message, automatically transmit 202 their IDs and localization data but only if they are localized within a predefined distance D1 from said first mobile station.

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If there is response from said other MSs 304 a talk group is being created 206. If there is no other mobile station within said predefined distance D1 from said first mobile station 304 said other mobile stations, which distance from said first mobile station is larger than said predefined distance D1, transmit their ID and localization data 306 in response to said emergency message. As the emergency message and the responses are transmitted on the broadcast channel said other MSs listen to messages transmitted over the air and they know that no response was transmitted to said emergency message. They reply if there was no response from within D1 within a predefined period of time.

15 In alternative embodiments said response messages can be transmitted also over a dedicated channel.

After creation of said talk group or at the time of selecting MSs to said talk group, which can be done in the same way as in case of the first embodiment described above, a closest emergency service unit (or units) 118 is localized 210 and selected 212 to said talk group.

25 For communication systems with an infrastructure 120, 136 - 146 a dispatch centre 148 transmits driving directions to said emergency service unit (or units) 118.

30 For communication systems with infrastructure said selection 304, 206, 210, 212 is being done by said infrastructure or by a dispatch centre 148 and for communication systems without infrastructure or when infrastructure is not used said selection is being done by said first mobile station 102.

With reference to Fig. 4 and Fig. 6 a third embodiment of a method of automatic creation of a talk group according to the present invention is shown. When
5 a user of a first mobile station 102 is in an emergency situation and presses a dedicated button on the first MS 102 an emergency message is transmitted over the air 200 on a broadcast channel. Other mobile stations 104 - 116, after receiving said message, automatically transmit 202
10 their IDs and localization data but only if they are localized within a predefined distance D1 from said first mobile station. If there is no response 304 to said emergency message said predefined distance is increased 402 and said emergency message is transmitted
15 again 404. (The other mobile stations 106, 108, 114, 116 located beyond said predefined distance transmit their IDs and localization data if they receive the same emergency message transmitted again.) If there is a response from at least portion of said other mobile
20 stations 106, 108, 114, 116, the talk group is being created which consist of the first mobile station 102 and other mobile stations that responded to said emergency message.

25 After creation of said talk group or at the time of selecting MSs to said talk group, which can be done in the same way as in case of the first embodiment described above, a closest emergency service unit (or units) 118 is localized 210 and selected 212 to said
30 talk group.

For communication systems with an infrastructure 120, 136 - 146 a dispatch centre 148 transmits driving directions to said emergency service unit (or units)
35 118.

For communication systems with said infrastructure 120, 136 - 146 said selection 304, 206, 210, 212 is being done by said infrastructure 120, 136 - 146 or by
 5 said dispatch centre 148 and for communication systems without said infrastructure or when said infrastructure is not used said selection is being done by said first mobile station 102.

10 With reference to Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 a fourth embodiment of a method of automatic creation of a talk group according to the present invention is shown. When a user of a first mobile station 102 is in an emergency situation and presses a dedicated button on the first MS
 15 102 an emergency message is transmitted over the air 200 on a broadcast channel. Other mobile stations 104 - 116, after receiving said message, automatically transmit 202 their IDs and localization data. Said other mobile stations 104 - 116 transmit their responses 502, 504,
 20 506 with some delay and the value of said delay depends on the distance from said first mobile station to any one of said of the mobile stations 104 - 116. A relation between said delay and said distance is presented in Table 1. It is obvious that the delay may be increased
 25 in many different ways and the one presented in Table 1 is an example only.

Table 1

Distance D	Delay
$D \leq D1$	No delay
$D1 < D \leq D2$	T1
$D2 < D \leq D3$	2xT1
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If there is a response from the other mobile stations located within distance D1 said other mobile stations are selected and said talk group is created 206. If there is no other mobile station 508 within distance D1 from said first mobile station 102 other mobile stations located within distance D2 are selected and said talk group is created 206. If there is no other mobile station 510 within distance D2 other mobile stations located within distance D3 are selected and said talk group is created 206. This procedure may be repeated as long as at least one of the other mobile stations will be found within some predefined distance from said first mobile station 102.

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After creation of said talk group or at the time of selecting MSs to said talk group, which can be done in the same way as in case of the first embodiment described above, a closest emergency service unit (or units) 118 is localized 210 and selected 212 to said talk group.

For communication systems with an infrastructure 120, 136 - 146 a dispatch centre 148 transmits driving directions to said emergency service unit (or units) 118.

For communication systems with said infrastructure 120, 136 - 146 said selection 508, 510, 512, 206, 210, 212 is being done by said infrastructure 120, 136 - 146 or by a dispatch centre 148 and for communication systems without infrastructure or when infrastructure is not used said selection is being done by said first mobile station 102.

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Alternatively for communication systems with the infrastructure, when the talk group is created, information on the talk group (including IDs of members of the talk group and their localization data) can be transmitted to a dispatch centre 148. After this transfer the dispatch centre 148 takes over control of the talk group.

Importantly, an advantage of this invention is that by limiting the number of said other mobile stations that respond at the same time (e.g. only those MSs located within predefined distance are allowed to respond or by introducing delay for transmitting response, etc.) allows for limitation of the risk of system congestion.

The localization data transmitted by said first mobile station and said other mobile stations are data obtained via GPS system or calculated based on triangulation data. It is obvious for those skilled in the art that other localization/positioning system's data may be used.

In those embodiments where the communication system operates in trunking mode, said predefined distance can be limited to the borders of a cell 122 or to the borders of a group of cells 124 - 134 within which said first mobile station is located. However actual distance measured in length units may also be applied.

It is obvious for those skilled in the art that the mobile unit can be either a portable or mobile radio.

Referring to Fig. 6 one embodiment of a mobile station capable of operating in accordance with the

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disclosed method is depicted. The mobile station of Fig. 6 may be either a portable- or a mobile digital or analog radio. The mobile station 600 comprises a microphone 620 which provides a signal for transmission
5 by transmission circuit 602. Transmission circuit 602 transmits via Radio Frequency (RF) switch 604 and antenna 606. The mobile station 600 also has a microprocessor 610 and a memory 612. The mobile station 600 also comprises a display 618 and keypad 616. Voice
10 activation of the radio, or other means of interaction with a user, may also be implemented. Signals received by the radio are routed by the RF switch 604 to a receiving circuit 608. The received signals are routed from the receiving circuit 608 to microprocessor 610 and
15 audio processing circuitry 624 and 626. A localization circuitry 614, which in one embodiment may be a GPS circuitry is connected to said microprocessor 610. A dedicated emergency switch 622 is also connected to said microprocessor 610.

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In operation said emergency switch 622 when activated initiate the microprocessor to transmit an emergency message which contains at least indication that this is an emergency message, ID of said mobile
25 station and current geographical position of said mobile station. Said geographical position is provided by said localization circuitry 614. When said communication 600 unit receives an emergency message said microprocessor calculates distance between said mobile station and
30 another mobile station, which has sent the emergency message. For these calculations the microprocessor uses localization data received in said emergency message and obtained from said localization circuitry 614. Depending on the result of calculations and on the embodiment of
35 the method according to the present invention used the

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microprocessor initiate transmission of the response message (containing ID and its localization data) or not.

5 When said mobile station 600 receives messages with said IDs and localization data in response to said emergency message the microprocessor 610 stores them in a memory 612. The microprocessor 610 uses the data
10 stored in the memory 612 to calculate distances between said first mobile station and any one of said other mobile stations which have responded to said emergency message. Next the microprocessor selects to a talk group those of said other mobile stations, which are located within a predefined distance from the mobile station,
15 which transmitted the emergency message. When the selection is completed the talk group is created.

 In any of the embodiments the dispatch centre 148 is preferably added to said talk group.

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 It is worth to emphasise that all these embodiments of the method according to the present invention may be implemented in a communication system with an infrastructure (for communication in direct mode as well
25 as in trunking mode) or without an infrastructure. In implementation in a communication system with an infrastructure selection of MSs to the talk group is done by said infrastructure (e.g. zone controller). Said calculation of distance can be done by either by
30 the infrastructure or by the MSs. When the method is implemented in a communication system without infrastructure or when the infrastructure is not used then selection of MSs to the talk group and calculation of the distances is done by said the first mobile
35 station (some calculations are also to be done by the

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other mobile stations). It is also possible that the steps of calculation and selection are performed by said first mobile station and said step of transmitting directions 214 to said emergency service unit (or units) is performed by a dispatch centre 148.